

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 EUR-25 /150 W

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P R 112138Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8940

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJ: PDC RADIO BALMACEDA CENSORED

REF: SANTIAGO 2106, 2236

1. SUMMARY. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' RADIO BALMACEDA AGAIN BEING
SUBJECTED CENSORSHIP. END SUMMARY.

2. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (PDC) RADIO BALMACEDA DID NOT CARRY
USUAL EARLY MORNING COMMENTARY BY PDC IDEOLOGUE JAIME CASTILLO
TUESDAY JUNE 11 BUT INSTEAD PLAYED TWO SONGS "YO TENGO FE" (I HAVE
FAITH) AND "HYMN TO JOY" (BASED ON BEETHOVEN'S "9TH SYMPHONY").

3. BALMACEDA PRESS CHIEF IGNACIO GONZALEZ TOLD IO RADIO HAS
BEEN SUBJECTED TO PRIOR CENSORSHIP WITH IN-HOUSE CENSORS
SCRUTINIZING ENTIRE PROGRAMMING SINCE FRIDAY AFTERNOON JUNE 7,
WHEN CENSORS APPEARED AT STATION WITH UNSIGNED ORDERS ADVISING
STATION THAT THEY BEING SUBJECTED TO PRIOR CENSORSHIP. MEASURE

INCLUDED TOTAL BANNING OF CASTILLO REGARDLESS OF SUBJECT OF
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COMMENTARY, "EVEN IF HE WERE TO SPEAK OF HARMLESS SUBJECTS

SUCH AS 'ARBOR DAY'", SAID GONZALEZ. TWO SONGS MENTIONED ABOVE HAVE ALSO BEEN BANNED WITH NO EXPLANATIONS PROVIDED (ALTHOUGH LYRICS SUGGEST WHY). SONGS' MEANING AS RALLYING THEMES CLEAR ENOUGH BOTH TO LISTENERS AND JUNTA.

4. GONZALEZ ALSO SAID EDITORIAL COMMENTS WHICH HE AND GENERAL MANAGER BELISARIO VELASCO TOOK TURNS PREPARING WOULD BE DISCONTINUED, FOR THEY DID NOT WANT TO SUBJECT THEIR COMMENTARIES TO SCRUTINY OF CENSORS AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

5. BALMACEDA PDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS MATTER AND DECISION EXPECTED TODAY JUNE 11. UNCERTAIN WHAT MEASURES IF ANY PDC MAY TAKE TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON GOVERNING JUNTA TO REVOKE ORDER.

6. COMMENT. IN MARCH BALMACEDA CLOSED FOR SIX-DAY PERIOD (SEE REFTELS) WITH WARNING THAT IF CASTILLO'S HARD-HITTING COMMENTARIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUED, BALMACEDA MIGHT BE SHUT DOWN COMPLETELY. NEW MEASURE EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES ONLY CRITICAL OPPOSITION VOICE. ALL OTHER MEDIA STILL UNDER SELF CENSORSHIP. NEW CENSORSHIP MOVE SEEMS INDICATE HAND OF EXTREME RIGHT WING JUNTA ADVISER ALVARO PUGA, WHO STRONGLY DISLIKES PDC AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PREVIOUS CLOSURE. AFFAIR CAN ONLY WORSEN ALREADY COOL RELATIONS BETWEEN PDC AND JUNTA. OTHER ELEMENT OF PICTURE IS WHAT STEPS CARDINAL AND CATHOLIC CHURCH MAY TAKE SINCE SOME EXCERPTS FROM PAPAL ENCYCLICAL "QUADRAGESIMO ANNO" WERE ALSO CENSORED FROM RECENT PROGRAM. STRAINED CHURCH-REGIME RELATIONS MAY SUFFER EVEN MORE AS RESULT BALMACEDA INCIDENT. THOMPSON

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